

WEBB TELLS ON STAND HOW HE KILLED JOHNSON

Defendant Insists He Struck Fatal Blow in Self-Defense and Then Crammed Body Into Trunk.

Displaying no nervousness except in his shifting glances, Jesse P. Webb this morning told the men who are trying him for life in the circuit court how he killed William A. Johnson in a room in the New Grand Central hotel on the afternoon of June 20, and later tried to conceal the deed by cramming the body into the trunk of his codefendant, Mrs. Carrie Kersh.

Webb declared he struck Johnson in self-defense, to protect himself from a murderous attack by the man he slew. He thought Johnson was a good fellow, he said, bore the man no ill-will, and had no idea of killing him. He said that after wrenching a blackjack from Johnson's hand as the latter advanced upon him he "saw red" and struck Johnson several times; he could not say how many. He says he cannot remember putting the body in the trunk, but testified the idea of using the trunk came to his mind from reading of the disposal of the victim's body in that manner in the Porter Charlton case at Lake Como, Italy.

Tried to Buy Chloroform.
Sensational testimony tending to show that Webb had intended to chloroform Johnson marked the close of the state's case this morning, when Deputy District Attorney Fitzgerald called A. S. Rodda, a drug clerk, to the stand. Rodda is the missing witness Fitzgerald announced Saturday he expected to secure, Rodda being out of town on his honeymoon and his knowledge of the case being unknown to the state until a few days ago.

Rodda positively identified Webb as the man who came to the store of the Wood Drug company, 67 North Third street, on the afternoon of the tragedy and wanted to buy a half pint of chloroform. This unusual request caused him to note the appearance of the man, Rodda said, as he thought the man might want to commit suicide. He went back of the prescription case and consulted Frank C. Rossi, the proprietor, who told him not to sell the drug except upon prescription.

Rodda testified he asked Webb what he wanted the chloroform for, and Webb said he used it on a handkerchief to place over his face and help him to

An Easy Way to Clean Greasy Pots and Pans

Cleaning the pots and pans and kettles is usually a most disagreeable piece of work, but like everything else there is an easier way to do it, if one knows how. As soon as the food is removed, pour in water and dissolve in it Gold Dust in the proportion of one tablespoonful to a gallon of water. Leave to soak while washing the dishes, then pour off the water and fill with clean suds made in the same way. If particles of food still adhere to the inside of the utensils, use pot-rings for removing them.

sleep. Webb said he was a printer on the Oregonian working at night, was stopping at the Grand Central, and exhibited a union card.

Mrs. Kersh Nervous.
Seneca Potts, attorney for the defense, tried to shut out Rodda's testimony, but his objections were overruled. Frank C. Rossi, proprietor of the drug store, testified to holding a consultation with Rodda about the chloroform; and Detective Mallett, last witness of the state, told of finding a union card among Webb's effects.

During the telling of Webb's story Mrs. Kersh, who is to be tried in a few days on a charge of conspiring with Webb to murder the man with whom she was traveling as wife, sat inside the railing and drank in the details. She appeared pale faced and worn. Webb's wife and daughter, who have come to lend sympathy to the prisoner, were also in the audience as he told of the killing.

Webb's narrative began with a history of his early life. He said he was born in Iowa and is 45 years old. He was married at Astoria, Neb., in 1887, and has two daughters, 17 and 22 years of age. He has been a printer practically all his life, coming to the Pacific coast 10 years ago, and working at Nome, Juneau, Vancouver, B. C., Nelson, B. C., and Spokane. At different times he has been known as A. C. Powers, he said, the name under which he registered when he came to Portland. He did not know why he registered that way here, he said.

Now He Met Woman.
He first met Mrs. Kersh six or seven years ago, Webb narrated at Ballard, Wash. She was living with her husband and he papared their house, being temporarily a paperhanger. After he came from Alaska about two years ago, he said, she came to his house one night and asked to stay, saying her husband had thrown her out. Later he told her he was going away, and she asked him to wait a day so she could travel with him. They went to Vancouver, B. C., and the next day she and her little boy left by boat for San Francisco.

After five weeks Webb went to Nelson, he said, and in February, 1910, Mrs. Kersh joined him there, because she feared her husband would take her away and did not know where else to go. His interest in her at that time was one of sympathy, he said. In April they left Nelson and went to Spokane, where Webb worked as a printer until June 18, when he and the woman and Johnson left for Portland.

Met Johnson.
Webb said Mrs. Kersh took up with Johnson two or three weeks before they left, but her trunks were left in his room and at her request he called an expressman and sent her trunks with his own to the depot, she having told him a few days before of her plans to go to San Francisco with Johnson and start a rooming house. He left Spokane because work was slack, he said, and for no other particular reason.

He had never met Johnson until the next day on the train, he testified, so far as he could remember, but Johnson claimed to have met him in Spokane. They were together on the train much of the time that day, played cards and drank half a pint of whiskey together. On arrival in Portland the next morning Johnson suggested the Grand Central hotel and they all went there.

Webb said he and Johnson had several rounds of drinks that morning at the hotel before starting out to the city on a trip suggested by Johnson. They rode out on a car and took a flask of whiskey along, fearing they would be dry. They drank the whiskey at the hotel's den and then walked back to the hotel, stopping at saloons on the way. "I don't think we missed any saloons on the way back," said the witness.

"Sometimes I paid for drinks, and sometimes he paid. He also stopped and bought some noodles and chop suey and some flowers and fruit. On the way down he ran out of change and I loaned him \$10. In the way of a drunken man he insisted upon my taking his watch for security, and he slipped it into my pocket."

Webb said they reached the hotel

about noon. Soon after Johnson came to his room and wanted a drink. He went down to the bar, got bottles of beer and whiskey, and Johnson took two glasses into room 119, where Johnson and Mrs. Kersh were assigned. Later Johnson and the woman came to his room and wanted another drink and "Johnson seemed to get quarrelsome about something." Mrs. Kersh had asked the witness to have the trunks brought up from the depot, and this was the only thing he could think of to account for Johnson's conduct. Johnson told him if he did not leave her alone he would "fix" him.

Johnson Wanted Drink.
Webb said he thought little of this because of Johnson's condition, and a while after Johnson again came in and wanted to know if he had anything to drink. Johnson again seemed to get quarrelsome. Shortly after that Mrs. Kersh came to his room and told him she was going out, that Johnson was asleep, and asked him to watch Johnson and see he did not get into any trouble around the hotel.

A while after that, said Webb, he started to go out to get some fresh air, and opened the door of Johnson's room and peeped in, to see if Johnson was asleep. Johnson was standing in the middle of the floor, he declared, pouring a drink, and called to him with an oath to come in and take a drink, saying: "I will show you how to steal my woman."

Still anticipating no trouble, Webb said, he went in and took the drink, telling Johnson to forget it, there was nothing doing. As he put down the glass, he said, Johnson struck him in the ear, then another blow knocked out two of his teeth. Johnson then exhibited to the jury, also walking up close to the jury box to show the location of the missing grinder.

Have Hard Struggle.
"I began to get busy then," continued Webb, "and smashed him one on the point of the jaw. I knocked him over on the bed. I turned to go, and had my hand on the knob when I heard him coming again. I turned just in time to dodge a glancing blow on the shoulder from a blackjack. I threw up my hand and he hit a blow on it."

"I hardly know what happened then. All I could see was red. I took him by the throat with my left hand and tore the blackjack from his right hand. I struck him. I don't know how many times, but I know he did not fall from the first two blows. I finally knocked him on the bed and went out."

"I went back to see if he was all right and saw he was laying in the same position. I put my hand on his heart and there was no pulsation at all. Then I was frightened, scared to death, that's all there was to it. I locked the door and sat down and thought of a great many things. I thought of everything to do but the right thing. I had the idea of getting rid of the body, and this trunk proposition came into my mind because of what I had read in the papers about the Charlton case."

Puts Body in Trunk.
"Somebody tried the door and I started up. I went into my room and got the trunk, dumped out the stuff in it, and took it into 119. I do not remember putting the body in the trunk, but I remember going back to my room to get the rope to tie it and putting the shirt over the head to keep the blood off the

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111 1/2 ST. Between Webb and Clark

bedclothes. I knotted it around the neck to keep it from slipping off." Webb denied that Mrs. Kersh knew anything about the murder. He said when she asked him, shortly afterward, why her things were on the floor, he told her gruffly he had to use her trunk and it was none of her business what he did with it. He told her she could buy another, noon.

As there were plenty of trunks in Portland, or she could put her things in a gunny sack. She saw he was out of humor and went out.

Webb had practically finished his direct story at noon. He will go into the hands of Deputy District Attorney Fitzgerald for cross examination this afternoon.

VILLAGE SETS RECORD FOR GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Norbeck, Oct. 11.—This little village in French Flanders has created a record in having no fewer than 12 couples celebrating their golden weddings on one day. Every house in the village was daily decorated and the parish church offered a banquet in honor of the 12 couples, their descendants, who number about 50, and other relatives. The total ages of the 24 old people amount to 1698 years.

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Tuesday's Extra Specials

Another "odd lot" sale of men's Suits, pattern of which but one and two remain; values range from \$15 to \$40. A HAT FREE WITH EACH AND EVERY SUIT. Grouped into four lots for Tuesday:

\$15.00 Values	\$20-\$25 Values	\$25-\$30 Values
\$3.90	\$6.75	\$9.40

\$2.00-\$1.50 SHIRTS NOW.....49¢ and 39¢
\$4.00-\$3.00-\$2.50 SHIRTS NOW.....75¢ and 59¢

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\$35.00 Brass Bed Special at \$18

No. 2553—This large Continuous Post Brass Bed is made one of our leaders this week to draw attention to our large, elegant line of Solid Brass Beds. This bed has two-inch continuous posts, in the satin finish, and is the most popular of brass bed models made by the celebrated Simmons Bed Co.

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A special sale of Hampshire Bedspreads, 72 inches wide, 84 inches long, pure white, three-ply, both warp and filling from superior long staple cotton, warranted, reg. worth \$1.40, on special sale 85c. Only six sold to a customer at this price.

75c Door Mats 45c

A Tuesday special is offered in 75c Cocoa Door Mats, size 14x28 inches, at only 45c

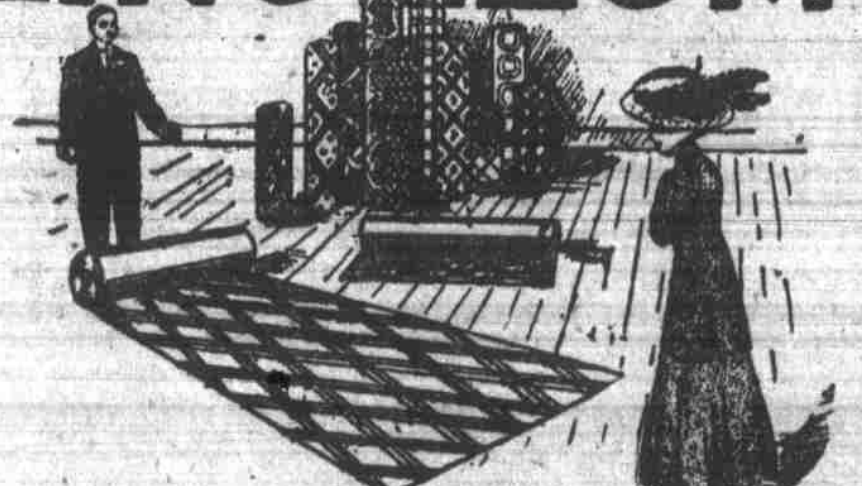


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